

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR HILDA L. SOLIS  
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April 19, 2022

**Completion of the Restorative Justice Village Master Plan in Pursuit of Care First  
in Los Angeles County**

On January 26, 2021, the Board of Supervisors (Board) passed a motion<sup>1</sup> to engage NAC Architecture Inc. (NAC) to begin working to shift from vision to reality a Restorative Justice Village Master Plan (RJVMP) that would expand on the Hilda L. Solis Care First Village and the LAC+USC Restorative Care Village Project in the First District to build on the County’s “Care First, Jails Last” priority, vision, and Board-led and created initiatives to invest in the community, provide affordable housing for vulnerable residents, and bring economic development opportunities to the community in historic Chinatown.

In May 2021, in response to the motion, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) prepared a report back<sup>2</sup> that included:

<sup>1</sup> <http://file.lacounty.gov/SDSInter/bos/supdocs/153341.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> <http://file.lacounty.gov/SDSInter/bos/supdocs/153386.pdf>

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- An update on recommendations on types of housing, services, and programs that should be included in the Restorative Justice Master Plan to best support the ongoing work at the LAC+USC Restorative Care Village and other “Care First, Jails Last” initiatives;
- An outreach framework that includes a participatory planning process involving Chinatown residents, businesses, and stakeholders to ensure incorporation of local needs into the Master Plan as well as engagement with social and criminal justice reform partners;
- A summary of outreach efforts to nearby property owners, including the California Endowment, Homeboy Industries, and the City of Los Angeles, as well as confirmation of their interest to participate in a Master Planning effort;
- A cost estimate and potential funding sources, including outside philanthropic funding sources and others, for the preparation of the full Master Plan, including any recommended contract amendments for NAC, Inc. and its subconsultants; and
- An implementation timeline for preparation of the Master Plan.”

In June 2021, the Board approved the use of “\$500,000 for preparation of the Master Plan scoping document...to include recommendations on the siting of various acute and sub-acute mental health beds needed in the community as part of the scope of work for the Restorative Justice Master Plan with the goal of increasing the number of available beds countywide, including the potential acquisition and/or lease of real estate properties in the proximity of Men’s Central Jail to further implement the Alternatives to Incarceration and Care First Jails Last initiatives for justice-impacted and involved

individuals and people experiencing homelessness and houselessness.”<sup>3</sup>

Almost a year later, NAC and its subconsultants produced a scoping document<sup>4</sup> that includes the framework, which will guide its work along with deliverables such as:

- Robust community outreach
- Assessment of available properties in the applicable geographic area, including areas around Men’s Central Jail and Central Juvenile Hall
- Stakeholder engagement plan
- Potentials for wrap-around support services
- Assessment of housing typologies

The County’s need for mental health beds and affordable housing is at an all-time high, with those needs only being exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic, which provided stressors on the physical and financial well-being of millions of residents across the County, accompanied by a corresponding increase in mental health issues and increased substance use across the country. Though the County has only recently completed its 2022 Homeless Count, and we don’t have the number of homeless and houseless residents, it is widely anticipated that the financial fallout from the pandemic increased the number of individuals experiencing homelessness within the County.

Lastly, people being released from the County jails are considered at high risk of facing homelessness—over 30%<sup>5</sup> and are likely to have a history of homelessness before being incarcerated and makeup over 60% of the homeless population. Most formerly incarcerated people have mental health, medical, or substance use

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<sup>3</sup> <http://file.lacounty.gov/SDSInter/bos/supdocs/158959.pdf>

<sup>4</sup> <http://file.lacounty.gov/SDSInter/bos/supdocs/153386.pdf>

<sup>5</sup> [http://file.lacounty.gov/SDSInter/bos/bc/1104568\\_DEVELO\\_1.PDF](http://file.lacounty.gov/SDSInter/bos/bc/1104568_DEVELO_1.PDF)

dependency needs with less than 10% reporting none of these issues.

For NAC and its subconsultants to move forward on the proposed deliverables and plan in accordance with the scoping documents, it will require up to \$4,347,000 for the preparation of the proposed Master Plan, of which \$501,000 is for County project management services, \$3,639,000 is for consultant services, and \$207,000 is for planning contingency in the event of unforeseen issues or needs.

NAC has proposed a timeline of 14 months to move forward on its plan and an additional nine months for any further engagement and follow-up meetings with a diverse group of community stakeholders.

Building up the “care first” infrastructure will take time, however, it’s time worth investing given the positive and meaningful impact it will have on the County’s most vulnerable residents that have the highest needs. It will also require a village to create a health and person-focused master plan that provides the needs for residents to live, thrive, and succeed, end the County’s reliance on mass incarceration, and develop sustainable strategies to end homelessness.

**WE, THEREFORE, MOVE** that the Board of Supervisors:

1. Find that the actions herein do not constitute a project under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) because they are activities that are excluded from the definition of a project by section 21065 of the California Public Resources Code and Section 15378 (b)(4) and (5) of the State CEQA Guidelines. The actions involve the creation of government funding mechanisms or other government fiscal activities that do not involve any commitment to any specific project that may result

in potentially significant physical impact on the environment and are administrative activities of government that will not result in direct or indirect physical changes in the environment. The recommended actions do not include approval of the Master Plan or of any project, as defined under CEQA. Staff will return to the Board in the future, with appropriate recommendations under CEQA prior to implementation of any activities that would be considered a project. Upon the Board's approval of the recommended actions, Public Works will file a Notice of Exemption with the County Clerk in accordance with section 21152 of the California Public Resources Code and will post the Notice Public Works will post the notice to the County's website pursuant to section 20192.2.

2. Direct the Chief Executive Office, in collaboration with the Alternatives to Incarceration Initiative, Office of Diversion and Reentry, Jail Closure Implementation Team, and the Department of Public Works, to oversee the delivery of the proposed Restorative Justice Village Master Plan through the as-needed contract with NAC Architecture, Inc.
  - a. Additionally, inclusion of the soon-to-be established Justice, Care, and Opportunities Department (JCOD) to be part of the collaboration in the delivery of the Restorative Justice Village Master Plan.
3. Authorize the Chief Executive Officer, or her designee, in collaboration with the Director of Public Works, or his designee, to use up to \$4,347,000 in the Care First, Jails Last project, Capital Project No. 87733, for the preparation of the proposed Master Plan, of which \$501,000 is for County project management services,

\$3,639,000 is for consultant services, and \$207,000 is for planning contingency in the event of unforeseen issues or needs.

4. Authorize the Director of Public Works, or his designee, to amend the current as-needed contract with NAC Architecture, Inc. to increase the amount of that contract and, if necessary, to increase the term of that contract for the performance of this Master Plan work.
5. Find that the performance of this Master Plan work will not create a prohibition to NAC Architecture, Inc. or any other consultant providing such Master Plan services from participating in any future solicitation for projects contemplated in the proposed Master Plan pursuant to Board Policy 5.090.
6. Authorize the CEO, or her designee, to take any other actions consistent with and/or necessary for the implementation of the foregoing planning actions.

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